

Alan:

I like this.

After minor

Changes sug-

gested would

like copies -

Would like to

see wide dis-

tribution. Hatched
2 MAR

28 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. ELLSBERG, Senior Liaison Office

SUBJECT: GVN Concepts of Rural Construction

1. References:

a. Ministry of Rural Construction Temporary Directions Regarding the Organization of Rural Construction Cadre, 21 December 1965.

b. Brochure, undated, "Activities of the Ministry of Rural Construction during 1966".

c. Message, 2-1726-A, AMEMB, 22 February 1966.

2. I have reviewed your revised paper, GVN Concepts of Rural Construction, dated 21 February and consider it to be an excellent overall review of the premises and underlying rationale of current GVN efforts in the area of Rural Construction.

3. Certain minor changes suggested in view of recent developments and by statements of GVN officials are as follows:

a. General. The term "revolutionary development" should be substituted for or used in conjunction with "rural construction" since the Embassy has indicated that "revolutionary development" will be used as the English translation of the Vietnamese term "rural construction". (Reference 1c). ✓

b. Goal and Challenge, page 1. Recommend that a paragraph be added indicating where revolutionary development (rural construction) fits in the total counterinsurgency effort. This was spelled out by General Thang in his speech at the Honolulu Conference on 7 February 1966. Such a paragraph could read substantially as follows: To counter the military threat and simultaneously build a nation, the Republic of Vietnam has defined as a national objective the provision of security, freedom, democracy, and welfare for the people. Three main programs to achieve this objective have been developed: A military offensive to defeat the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Military forces; revolutionary development (rural construction) to continue the restoration of security and establish government control; and "democracy building" to build a nation. Revolutionary development is the bridge between the military offensive and nation building. ✓

c. Development Phase, page 6. Recently, the Ministry of Rural Construction has indicated that its activities will be phased out during the development phase and replaced by normal governmental processes and services (reference 1b). ✓

MACJ33

SUBJECT: GVN Concepts of Rural Construction

28 Feb 66

d. Rural Construction Cadre Group, page 11. The first paragraph should be rephrased as follows: The group will normally move into an assigned hamlet as a unit...possible. However, actual employment will depend on the existing situation. The group may be reinforced or fragmented as necessary. (Reference 1a). ✓

1 Incl
as

Joel M. Hollis
JOEL M. HOLLIS
Colonel, GS
Chief, Rural Const Div